

Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment FAQ

Q What's this I hear about having to do a performance assessment to get my certificate?

A Do you hold an Arizona teaching certificate now? If so, you are not affected.

Q Who is affected? Who will have to pass a performance assessment?

A Only those teachers who obtain their initial teaching certificate on or after June 1, 2006.

Q I have an Arizona Provisional (or Standard) certificate. Will I be affected?

A No. Those who currently hold Arizona Provisional or Standard certificates are not affected by this new requirement.

Q I hold a certificate from another state and may move to Arizona to teach. Am I affected?

A This issue is being addressed. A definitive answer will be available later. Check the ADE Website under "Certification" for regularly updated information.

Q Does this apply to charter/private school teachers?

A By Arizona law, charter school teachers do not need to be certificated. Nor do private school teachers. If a charter school teacher **chooses** to obtain his or her initial teaching certificate on or after June 1, 2006, this requirement will pertain.

Q How does this relate to the performance evaluations of teachers that principals conduct?

A The state's performance assessment is for purposes of licensure and quality assurance that new teachers can demonstrate competence in the Arizona Professional Teaching Standards; evaluations conducted by a teacher's principal are for purposes of continued employment.

Q What will I have to do to pass this test?

A The Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment will require a video tape of one's teaching, written commentary, and supporting evidence. Descriptions of the process and materials and methods to support new teachers who will be affected are being developed. Check the ADE Website under "Certification" for regularly updated information on this.

Q What if I don't pass the first time I take it?

A Just as ADE provides a variety of support to students and a number of opportunities for them to succeed on the AIMS tests, we are developing a variety of support for teachers affected by this requirement and will offer them up to five attempts to succeed with the performance assessment.

Q When will I have to take the performance assessment?

A The Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment materials will be available on June 1, 2006. The first date assessments will be submitted for scoring is March 2007. Detailed timelines are being developed. Check the ADE Website under "Certification" for regularly updated information on this.

Q Will Arizona teachers be required to become National Board Certified?

A No. National Board Certification® is a voluntary process to ascertain "highly accomplished teaching." Although the Arizona Teacher Performance Assessment is administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), this is a separate process. We hope that this will lead to more teachers choosing to go for National Board Certification®.